

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL TORONTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AGAO, AMGT

SUBJECT: GAO COUNTRY COGNIZANCE SURVEY OF CANADA

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN NOTIFIED BY GAO OF THEIR INTENTION
TO INITIATE THE SUBJECT SURVEY IN OTTAWA ON OCTOBER 12.
SURVEY EXPECTED TO TAKE TWO WEEKS.

2. FOR BACKGROUND: THE GAO "COUNTRY COGNIZANCE SURVEY"
IS A SELF-INITIATED, INFORMATION-GATHERING SURVEY FOR
THE PURPOSES OF: MAINTAINING A CONTINUING COGNIZANCE OF
USG ACTIVITIES ABROAD; BEING ALERT TO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES
IN DIRECTION OF EFFORT OR SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS TO
BETTER ENABLE THE GAO TO RESPOND TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES,
OR WHICH MAY BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE CONGRESS;
IDENTIFY PROBLEM AREAS OR POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREAS WHICH
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MAY REQUIRE THE MORE INTENSIVE AUDIT REVIEW. SUCH SURVEYS

DO NOT NORMALLY RESULT IN FORMAL REPORTING TO THE CONGRESS;
HOWEVER, INTERNAL REPORTS ARE PREPARED BY THE GAO AUDITORS-
ON-SITE FOR THEIR SUPERVISORY OFFICIALS, AND DISCUSSED
IN AN EXIT-CONFERENCE WITH THE CHIEF OF MISSION AND
APPROPRIATE ELEMENTS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM.

3. GAO ADVISES THAT THE FOLLOWING WILL BE OF PRIMARY
INTEREST DURING THIS SURVEY:

A) PERSPECTIVES ON U.S.-CANADIAN DOMINANCE OF GRAIN
EXPORTS. POTENTIAL FOR LEVERAGE AGAINST COUNTRIES
ENGAGING IN MATERIAL CARTELS, EEC RESTRICTIONS. EXTENT
OF COORDINATED U.S.-CANADIAN FOOD POLICIES FOR ASSISTING
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ALSO SUCH RELATED ISSUES AS
IMBALANCE IN U.S.-CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND PLAN
TO NATIONALIZE U.S. PRIVATELY-OWNED POTASH INDUSTRIES.

B) U.S.-CANADIAN RELATIONSHIPS ON ACCESS TO ENERGY
RESOURCES (OIL, GAS, PIPELINES) AND NON-ENERGY RESOURCES.

C) IMPACT OF U.S. 200 MILE FISHING ZONE LEGISLATION ON
U.S.-CANADIAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

D) AN ASSESSMENT OF THE OVERALL INVESTMENT CLIMATE.

E) VIEWS ON U.S.-CANADIAN IMBALANCES IN TRADE RELATIONS
E.G., U.S.-CANADIAN AUTOMOTIVE AGREEMENT, IMBALANCES BE-
TWEEN U.S.-CANADIAN TARIFFS ON SOME PRODUCTS AND CURRENT
TRADE PROBLEMS SUCH AS CANADIAN QUOTA ON EGGS.

F) OVERVIEW OF U.S. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AGENCIES PRO-
GRAMS IN CANADA.

4. IN ADDITION TO EMBASSY, GAO TEAM MAY WISH TO VISIT
CG'S MONTREAL AND TORONTO. THIS TO BE DETERMINED
FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY.

5. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE GAO TEAM WILL HAVE BEEN BRIEFED BY
COUNTRY DIRECTOR AND BY DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND
DEFENSE.

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6. GAO TEAM WILL BE HEADED BY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MELVIN
F. BERNGARTT ACCOMPANIED BY FRANCIS K. BUIGE, ROBERT
ROGERS, JOHN T. COMPETELLO, AND OKEY R. THOMPSON.
DEPARTMENT CERTIFIES THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE POSSESS CURRENT
TOP SECRET SECURITY CLEARANCES.

7. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO COOPERATE WITH THE GAO IN

ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES IN 4 FAM 930-934 AND
2 FAM 137. QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO
DEPARTMENT. KISSINGER

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